

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07

FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

CCO-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01 BIB-01 OC-05 NIC-01 PM-03 H-01

L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FAA-00

SAJ-01 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9278

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NO, ETEL, MARR

SUBJECT: EXPOSE OF NORWAY'S ACQUISITION OF LORAN AND
OMEGA SYSTEMS

SUMMARY. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE CALLED
DCM TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON FEBRUARY 7 TO WARN EMBASSY OF
POSSIBLE "EXPOSE" IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN THE NORWEGIAN PRESS
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS SOME YEARS AGO LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
LORAN AND OMEGA SYSTEMS IN NORWAY. WHILE THE INITIAL THRUST OF
THE ATTACK IS EXPECTED TO BE AGAINST GOVERNMENT'S DECISION-MAKING
PROCESS, THE LEFTIST PRESS IS ALSO EXPECTED TO REACTIVATE THE THE
OLD POLARIS AND POSEIDEN TARGETING CHARGES TO TRY AND DISCREDIT
NORWAY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH NATO.

ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE NORWEGIANS HAVE STATEMENT
DISQUALIFYING OMEGA FOR TARGETING PURPOSES, THEY ARE UNSURE
WHETHER THEY CAN MAKE SIMILAR CATEGORIC DISCLAIMERS FOR LORAN
A AND C INSTALLATIONS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING
ASAP GUIDELINES ON WHAT WE AND/OR FOREIGN MINISTRY CAN SAY
ON THIS LATTER POINT IF ASKED. END SUMMARY.

1. THE EXPOSE, IF IT OCCURS, WILL RESULT FROM LEAK OF A
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CONFIDENTIAL MASTER'S THESIS PREPARED BY CAPT. ANDRES HELLEBUST,

POLITICAL SCIENTIST PRESENTLY WORKING IN THE NORWEGIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. HIS THESIS, "NATO COMMON FINANCING AND BILATERAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORWAY: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS AND INFLUENTIAL RELATIONS" WAS ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE OF THREE SCHOLARS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR STATSVITENSKAP LAST FALL. HELLEBUST RECENTLY INFORMED THE DEFENSE MINISTRY THAT HE FEARED HIS CONFIDENTIAL THESIS HAD LEAKED OUT TO LEFTIST CIRCLES IN THE UNIVERSITY. THE LABOR PARTY NEWSPAPER ARBEIDERBLADET HAS THE STORY, VIBE SAID, IN THE EVENT IT IS FINALLY LEAKED BY THE LEFTIST PRESS.

2. WHILE HELLEBUST BASED HIS REPORT ON PUBLIC SOURCES, HE ADMITTEDLY HAD ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION. HIS VOLUMINOUS THESIS IS FILLED WITH "LOUSY CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS", BUT ONLY POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ACCUSATIONS PRESENTLY KNOWN TO VIBE, CONCERN NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE LORAN AND TO LESSER EXTENT OMEGA INSTALLATIONS. HELLEBUST, WHO APPEARED TO HAVE NO PARTICULAR POLITICAL AX TO GRIND, ACCUSED OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF HAVING CIRCUMVENTED THE PROPER GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES IN AGREEING TO THE INSTALLATION OF THESE SYSTEMS IN NORWAY. HE GOES ON TO CLAIM THE SYSTEMS WERE OF LITTLE INTEREST IF ANY TO NORWAY, SINCE THEY WERE TO BE USED TO ASSIST THE U.S. IN TARGETTING ITS POLARIS AND POSEIDEN-ARMED SUBMARINES.

3. NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE REVIEWED THE NEGOTIATIONS IN 1958, AND 1960 AND 1971 AND FOUND THAT, IN FACT, THE AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED IN THE SECURITY COMMITTEE ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS AND PROPER GOVERNMENTAL PROCEDURES WERE FOLLOWED. VIBE IS ALSO CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LEFTIST PRESS WILL SEE THE OPPORTUNITY, BY REVIVING THE TARGETING ARGUMENTS, TO ATTACK THE IMPLICATIONS FOR NORWAY OF MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. WITH REFERENCE TO THE U.S. INITIATIVE LAST YEAR TO BROADCAST OVER LORAN C (CLARINET-PILGRIM), VIBE NOTED THAT THE SECURITY COMMITTEE (CHAIRIED BY THE PRIME MINISTER) HAD THE ISSUE UNDER REVIEW; HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ANY RENEWED ATTACK ON LORAN C WOULD ONLY COMPLICATE THE DECISION.

4. ASKED HOW THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNED TO RESPOND TO ANY INQUIRIES, VIBE SAID IT COULD SAY THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE HANDLED CONFIDENTIAL

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IN PROPER CHANNELS. IN THE CASE OF ATTACKS ON OMEGA, THE FORMIN WAS PROVIDED THE EMBASSY SOME TIME AGO WITH A STATEMENT IT COULD NOW USE, AFFIRMING THAT OMEGA IS NOT SUITABLE FOR TARGETTING PURPOSES. VIBE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A SIMILAR STATEMENT IN HAND REGARDING LORAN A AND C.

5. IF ASKED, THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO STATE THAT LORAN A AND C

AND OMEGA ARE LONG-RANGE NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS USED BY MANY COUNTRIES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO ASSIST THEIR FISHING AND MERCHANT VESSELS,
AND THAT THEY ARE MUCH TOO UNSOPHISTICATED TO BE USED FOR
TARGETTING PURPOSES.
ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON WHAT THE EMBASSY AND NORWEGIANS CAN SAY
IN RESPONSE TO THESE FAMILIAR LEFTIST CHARGES.
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